STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT JOVENEL MOISE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9AM EST THURSDAY JANUARY 16

As of January 13, the terms of Haiti's Deputies and two thirds of the Senators expired with no one to replace them. This is because Parliament had refused to vote on the budget we proposed to hold elections in October 2019.

In this scenario, Haiti's 1987 constitution necessitates that the President govern by executive order until an agreement can be reached. I will abide by this instruction in our constitution, but I do so reluctantly, knowing that this is not how a thriving and fair democracy should function.

Political actors must now come back to the table for urgent dialogue to deliver a unity government. That government will be empowered to pass a budget and pass laws that will enable us to deliver elections. Equally, it will propose constitutional changes to address flaws in the 1987 text which have contributed to a decades-long cycle of political crises, which has meant Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

We are continuing discussions with all political parties and with international partners, who all agree on the need to amend the 1987 constitution to enable our government to function, our democracy to flourish, and our country to advance. We will work with all political actors and our international partners to draft constitutional reforms to ensure a widely acceptable, workable, democratic balance of power which will then be put to the Haitian people in a referendum.

We have a window of opportunity. I want to take it to fix what has been broken in the Haitian system for far too long and finally allow us to move forward.

STATEMENT ENDS

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